

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. It was generally accepted in the USSR that the organs of the MGB were (1945-1948) Communist Party organs. The fact that MGB organs were "Party organs through and through" was emphasized at all meetings and conferences of MGB personnel. The Central Committee of the Party had a special subsection in charge of MGB personnel, which confirmed all nominations for executive positions in the MGB.
2. One official of this subsection visited the Counterintelligence Directorate (UKR) of the Group of Soviet Occupation Forces in Germany (GSOV) in 1948 to check the knowledge of the History of the VKP (b) of UKR personnel, and to check the behavior of UKR personnel. As a consequence of this visit, for example, Senior Investigator of the UKR, had hurriedly to legalize his marriage because he was afraid that otherwise he might get into trouble. The subsection investigator did not interfere at all with operational activities. At the UKR level, Party organs did not interfere with MGB work, but were given the right to control the studies of UKR Party members in the Party schools and to test their knowledge.
3. The highest Party organ in the GSOV in Germany was the Party Commission attached to the Political Directorate of the Group. A member of the Party Commission was, as a rule, the Secretary of the Party Bureau of the UKR (at one time Lieutenant Colonel Malgin). He could always exert influence on the work of the Party Commission, since he was an authoritative representative of an MGB organ which was feared by everyone. The Secretary of the Party Bureau of the UKR was exempted from work in the UKR. Malgin, for instance, was one of the Deputy Chiefs of the Third Section of the UKR before being elected Secretary of the Party Bureau, but then became only a Party official. The Secretary of the Party Bureau of the UKR was the most influential member of the UKR, after the Chief and the Deputy Chief, and in actuality was the Deputy Chief of the UKR for political matters (the political commissar). All new appointments or promotions were coordinated with the Secretary of the Party Bureau.

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4. The Party Bureau was a specific and quite original Soviet organ. It could suggest that the Party meeting expel from the Party an operational officer who had "gone wrong", which meant dismissal from the organs of the MGB. The Bureau could suggest to the meeting the imposition of Party penalties upon any Party member (censure, severe censure) which entailed a negative rating and a demotion in the service. The Party Bureau could summon any Party member of the UKR to appear at its meetings, criticize his work, then present the case to the general meeting for discussion of his conduct. Such discussion could deal with the private family life of the member or with his professional activity. Suggestions made by the Party Bureau for discussion at a general meeting of the behavior of any Party member of the MGB as a rule were adopted without objection by the participants of the meeting. If the Party Bureau (which was a Politburo in miniature) suggested imposing censure upon a member, the suggestion was adopted "unanimously".
5. Secretaries of Party organizations of the operational sections of the UKR were not exempt from their professional MGB duties. Their assignment was to organize monthly Party meetings of their sections and to distribute so-called Party assignments to members of the Party organization. The Party meetings of a section were a vital necessity for the "education" of Communists, a necessity which could be compared to that of a stimulant for a dying person. This was because the majority of Communists forgot their "high Party mission" and became functionaries or so-called "business-minded workers" (delyaga) who, because of their MGB activity, forgot their Communist "religion".
6. At the Party meetings in MGB organizations, the members were constantly terrorized by the Section Chief, by the Secretary of the Party organization, and by a few opportunists, and were reminded that they must study Party history, pay membership dues, and have no contacts with the German population.
7. The Secretary of the Party organization of each MGB Section was in charge of the organization. This, however, did not prevent him from taking part in MGB work, since Party activity did not occupy much of his time. His sole responsibility consisted of carrying out various directives of the Secretary of the Party Bureau of the UKR. Orders and assignments were transmitted by the Section Secretary to the Section members, who had to execute them unquestioningly.
8. The higher UKR officials were beyond the reach of the Party Bureau, since the majority of them were "elected" as its members. Moreover, without the agreement of the Chief of the UKR, the Secretary of the Party Bureau would never criticize the work of a section chief or of any other executive. Section chiefs were, as a rule, "elected" as members of the Party Bureau. Thus, all the "leading comrades" were simultaneously members of the policy-making and executive organs of the Party. The plurality of functions, professional and Party, had no effect on operational work, since Party affairs in the UKR were reduced to a mere formality and, even though a Party meeting was organized once a month, it took very little time to prepare for it. The advantage of such a plurality of functions to an operational officer of the UKR was that it gave him some guarantee that he would not become an easy victim of Party terror. Also the following important statement would appear in his Party and professional record: "Actively takes part in the life of the Party organization; was elected Secretary of the Section's Party organization." For the Personnel Section, and for further advancement in the MGB hierarchy, such a statement is a decisive factor.

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